

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 14404 181550Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DRC-01 /061 W

----- 037310

R 181520Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7543

INFO USMISSION US NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, AL

SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

REF: ROME 12717 (NOTAL)

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MFA'S ALBANIAN DESK OFFICER, VACATIONING ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO TIRANA REPORTED THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BEQIR BALLUKU HAS IN FACT BEEN DISMISSED AS ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE DISMISSAL HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT TWO OR THREE OTHER HIGH MILITARY OFFICIALS WERE DISMISSED FROM THEIR POSTS ALONG WITH BALLUKU.

2. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY TWO THEORIES WHICH PURPORT TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR BALLUKU'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 14404 181550Z

DISMISSAL. SOME ARGUE THAT BALLUKU AND HOXHA HAD SHARPLY

DIFFERING OPINIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN DEFENSE APPARATUS. OTHERS SUGGEST THAT BALLUKU FELL FROM POWER BECAUSE HE PRESSED CHINESE FOR MORE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAN THEY WERE WILLING TO SUPPLY. ANGERED BY BALLUKU'S CONTINUED REQUESTS, PEKING REPORTEDLY THEN PLACED PRESSURE ON HOXHA TO RELIEVE BALLUKU OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. SUPPORTERS OF EACH OF ABOVE-MENTIONED THEORIES GENERALLY ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT PRO-SOVIET ATTITUDES ALSO PLAYED ROLE IN BALLUKU'S DOWNFALL.

3. AMBASSADOR REJECTED THESIS THAT BALLUKU'S DISMISSAL RESULTED FROM UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO WREST CONTROL FROM HOXHA THROUGH A COUP OR OTHER MEANS. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME14404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740297-0753
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741035/aaaabdss.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 12717 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISAPPEARANCE OF ALBANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, IT, AL, (BALLUKU, REQIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005